

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

CIA/OEI/WH12WH 740202

Date: Jan 2, 74

Item No. 1

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: Cambodian Military Situation

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25X1A REF: [REDACTED] 002 & 003, 010500Z, 011030Z & 020330Z
25X1A Jan 74, SECRET

On New Years Day [REDACTED] visited the 1st Division near Kompong Speu, where it is engaged in trying to reopen Route 4. Limited progress was made toward that goal. [REDACTED] visited Route 5 on the same day and reported no progress being made by the 7th Division. Fighting in the rest of the country was light and the capital area was quiet.

A Mekong river supply convoy is scheduled to bring rice and military supplies on Thursday.

On December 28, [REDACTED] visited beleaguered 25X1A Takeo and discussed the situation with its governor-military commander. The governor reported that in numbers he was about evenly matched with attacking troops, but that the morale of the defenders was low and his forces were lacking qualified officers and NCOs. The defenders do not

Distribution: 25X1A

25X1A Lt. Gen. Walters

[REDACTED] Mr. Carver

25X1A

Mr. Proctor
Mr. Lehman

EAP
FILE

25X1A

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Exempt from general declassification schedule of E.O. 11652, exemption category: 25X (1), (2), (3) or (4) (circle one or more)
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Sources and Methods Involved

SENSITIVE

SECRET

believe they can take offensive action unless the Cambodian high command sends them two more battalions from the general reserve.

25X1A

The governor said he would be fortunate to hold Takeo for two more weeks without fresh troops and a large resupply of ammunition.

[REDACTED] does not consider that the Cambodian High Command will send reinforcements to Takeo, because it places a higher priority on reopening Routes 4 and 5. Planned airdrops should replenish Takeo's ammunition supply. Despite his pessimism, the governor said his ultimate military goal is to expand his defensive perimeter some seven kilometers to secure rice paddies and fishing areas that could sustain the population of 50,000 during the dry season. He does not believe he can accomplish this goal without reinforcements, however.

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